

From: Pedro O'Chonagaile
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 7:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

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Peter Connelly
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Seattle, WA 98109

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The Microsoft antitrust case, which is currently awaiting resolution in the federal courts, is verging on the ridiculous. I find it hard to believe that the Department of Justice had nothing better to do with its time and money than to pursue Microsoft for three years straight. This has gone on for long enough.

I ask you to support the proposed resolution, not because it is ideal, but because it represents the lesser of two evils. I would rather see a settlement reached now than face another extended period of useless, unwarranted litigation. Perhaps I would not be opposed to the suit continuing if there were an apparent purpose behind it; but I do not believe Microsoft has done anything to harm computer users.

The proposed settlement is, I think, sufficient response to all claims of antitrust violation. Microsoft has agreed to a wide variety of terms and conditions in the settlement, some of which extend to products and procedures that were not found to be unlawful by the Court of Appeals.

Such actions demonstrate a high degree of compliance on Microsoft's part. They have made sacrifices in the interest of wrapping up the case, and I do not believe that more sacrifice should be, or can be, required under the law. Both Microsoft and its competitors are dealt with fairly and justly in the proposed settlement. Microsoft has, for example, agreed not to enter into any contracts that would require a third party to distribute Microsoft products at a fixed percentage. Microsoft has also agreed to disclose internal interfaces from the Windows operating system for use by its competitors. The Windows operating system in future versions will support non-Microsoft software, and this interface disclosure will allow Microsoft competitors to maneuver within Microsoft's operating system and to introduce their own software into Windows.

Absolutely no further action against Microsoft is necessary on the federal level. Again, I ask you and your office to support the agreement and address other issues.

Sincerely,

Peter Connelly

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